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“Butterfly Walk” to aid Lupus Research; Sen. Patterson invites help

LANSING –Fellow walkers are needed to help raise funds for Lupus research at the University of Michigan, says Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton. The Amster Lupus Research Fund is hosting its fourth annual “Butterfly Walk” in Woodhaven, on Sunday, August 14.

A pancake breakfast will be held at 10 a.m., with the walk beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Woodhaven Civic Center Park on Hall Road. Participants of all ages are welcome and there will be routes of two miles, one mile or a few steps available. There also are ways for non-walkers to participate. Educational displays and literature will be on hand. Ronald McDonald will be the Grand Marshall of the walk.

“Families and friends, whether you know someone with lupus or not, are all welcome and needed in this important, all-volunteer effort,” Patterson says. “Please come, you can help!”

Lupus is disease of unknown cause in which the immune system, the body’s defensive mechanism, instead attacks the body’s tissue, organs, nervous system, blood, skin and joints. Characteristically, a “butterfly” rash will appear on the skin. Lupus is painful, debilitating, often fatal and strikes young children, young mothers and older people. In some cases, a genetic link can be suspected.

“We are making great strides in our efforts to understand this incredibly complicated disease,” said W. Joseph McCune, M.D., professor of Internal Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology, and director of Rheumatology Outpatient Services at the University of Michigan Health System. “The Butterfly Walk is a terrific endeavor. It will help increase the public’s awareness of lupus, and also help accomplish our goal of raising research money to help people diagnosed with lupus have normal life-spans and lead normal lives.”

Entrants are asked for a \$10 tax-deductible minimum donation, or \$30 for a family of four. Any other donations also are welcome. Checks should be payable to “U-M Amster Lupus Research Fund” and may be sent to National City Bank – Darla Mathy, LOC R-J25-C9, 400 West 4th Street, Royal Oak. MI 48067.

The Amster Lupus Research Fund has its website at www.AmsterLupus.org and invites your visit.

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